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Pleasant Journeys To Old Talbot County Farms

An excellent analysis of the early settlers which would bear some kinship to truth could be made from the names they gave their plantation. Were there no other historical data relative to Talbot County than the Rent Rolls of Lord Baltimore it would not be impossible to form a good idea of the character and life of those gallant gentlemen who settled the county.

If there is a lack of originality in the naming of estates; if there is apparent a tendency to resort to mediocre makeshifts, there is also an occasional flash of Irish wit, a name here and there which must have come from the Highlands of Scotland, and odd though it seems quite an abundance of the musically weird names from Wales. Many names were selected to perpetuate family, other were simply unashamed imitations of English homesteads, some show the bold spirit which the primeval country inspired, many expressed the relief of the bored man-of-the-world at the opportunity to spend his last years close to nature. The lack of originality is attributable to carelessness, probably, and not to inability for the Maryland settlers were the cultured people of America and the Colony was known as the Athens of the New World.

Many of the original names contained in the Rent Rolls have been changed, many remain. Occassionally a tract of land far away from the original estate of that name has acquired one of the old designations. These, however, are exceptions. There are many estates with their boundaries greatly changed, it is true, which bear the same names today that they did when patented to the original holders. Only such estates are the burden of this article.

"Wades's Point," near Claiborne, was not named, as might be thought from the characteristic of its bathing beach, but bears the surname of its patentee, Zachary Wade. The estate was surveyed in the 19th of October, 1658, and at that time contained 400 acres. Although the farm is reduced in size, the name still clings to the estate and has fitted with almost designed appropriateness into the advertising scheme of a summer resort popular with Baltimore people.

"Job's Content" is the rather unusual and suggestive title of a Talbot estate at one time well known and still remembered by the older residents. The name would indicate that some much-tried person, after the history of the original Job, had at last found peace on earth. But the fact is that the original settler who owned this 1,000-acre estate was named Job Nutt. It is not unlikely that Job himself had little to do with the naming of his estate and that one of his neighbors, in jocular mood, suggested the name that usage made permanent.

"Woolsey," or "Chancellor Point," is the estate at the extreme southern part of Talbot. It originally contained 1,000 acres and was surveyed in 1659 for Phillip Calvert, Esq. Named after Henry VIII's great minister, there can be little doubt that the first holder of this land was an admirer of the Cardinal. The two names are almost synonymous for Woolsey was Chancellor for a number of years. The estate belonged to the Ozmond family for a number of years and later passed to Col. William R. Hughlett. Colonel Hughlett's daughter, Miss Nettie Hughlett married Alfred Kemp, and Mr. Kemp purchased the estate after it became the property of his mother-in-law. The farm now belongs to ex-Governor Harrington.

"Dundee" is the good old Scotch name of a well-known tract of Talbot land. Of course the title is purely imitative, but the land was one of the original grants and John Kinnemount was the first holder. This first tenant could, from his name, have been the logical person to designate a farm after the Scotch manner.

"Kirkham" was patented to Martin Kirk, hence its designation. The estate is now very likely the one known as Perry Hall and owned by Miss Cox. Kirkham station, near Perry Hall, still bears the name of the first owner. The farm is on the Miles River.

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